

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

WAR CRISIS



In this photo provided by CBS, White House National Security Advisor James Jones speaks to media outside the CBS studio in Washington after appearing on the CBS talk show "Face the Nation" Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009. See International News on Page 4

Mike Eman: "Something Never Seen Before In Aruba"

Opposition files list of "green" candidates

ORANJESTAD - The electoral campaign in Aruba is different from the US process and one of the most important events that kicks off the electoral campaign here is the filing of "the list".

The list is that of the candidates participating in the Parliamentary elections on Aruba, which will take place on September 25th 2009.

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SPORTS NEWS

WOODS AT 70



Tiger Woods hoists the trophy after winning final the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. See Sports Today on Page 10

Guy Gemore hosts a penthouse cocktail party



PALM BEACH -- Guy Gemore, President at Players Choice Tours, Greater New York City Area, hosted his annual Friends & Family cocktail party at the 9th floor penthouse suite of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. Players Choice is one of the island's biggest Leisure, Travel & Tourism wholesalers,

booking thousands of room-nights into the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa among other high-rise properties.

Offering special deals with the hotels that aren't usually published on regular travel sites – packages including breakfast, for example, Players Choice has enjoyed repeat



business and great loyalty among Aruba-lovers for the past 20 years.

Continued on page 8

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Continued from front page



Each party that partakes in the election, files its list with the names of all the candidates who will participate (there are 29 positions for a complete list).

This filing took place on Friday the 7th of August at the Havana Beach Club.

Mike Eman, Leader of the AVP party, the largest party in the Opposition, filed the AVP list and was followed by thou-

sands of fans. It was a sight never before seen in Aruba. There was a blanket of green that could be seen as far as the eye could see.

The AVP list has 29 candidates and each one is prepared to take on the responsibilities needed to make Aruba a better place to live! The change is coming! The Change will take place on September 25, 2009!



Eight political parties turned in their lists of politicians to the Electoral Council from the Census office consisting of Robert Wever, Marco Christiaans, Florencio Wernet, Hubert Maduro, Jose Figaroa together with the Director Sharina Luidens. Each party leader was accompanied by

hundreds and in some cases thousands of people all dressed in the party color to Havana Club to turn in their list.

Aruba elects on national level a legislature. The Estates (Staten) have 21 members, elected for a four year term by proportional representation.

Aruba has a multi-party system, with two or three strong parties and a third party that is electorally successful.

The last general elections held in Aruba on 23 September 2005. They were won by the People's Electoral Movement, which took 11 of the 21 seats in the Estates.



Greetings from the Fabulous Palm Beach Plaza



PALM BEACH—The Palm Beach Plaza is in its interior decoration phase, reports Mall Manager Alex Otterspeer. The large mall just completed construction on the boulevard below the Marriott Surf Club, and will be making 15.000 m2 of fine dining, shopping and entertainment available to locals and visitors in the Fall. The complex is the largest mall in the Southern Caribbean, and it was conceived as an all-day family

entertainment center offering an abundance of activities to patrons of all ages. Last week representing the Green Door Spa, famous local beauty consultant Claudine Kassar, accepted the keys to her new establishment from Otterspeer. Kassar is planning an environmentally themed day spa where the green motif is carried though from décor, to products, atmosphere and music. The day

spa will offer quality hair, skin and nail treatments with the exception of acrylic, which as a chemical compound does not fit in with the house philosophy. A dedicated Barber Shop will afford men and children a place to call their own, away from the women's section. Also picking up keys for his new beach gear emporium, Suresh Mirchumaland and his beautiful mother who is visiting from India. The two shared a special moment as they received the keys to the new Panache.

Created by Landy NV, with managing director Muller Solognier, as a partnership of three well-established local developers, the multi-level mall attracted a great number of prestigious tenants. The Palm Beach Plaza is welcoming Shivas Gold & Gems, Tommy Hilfiger, Façonnable, Benetton, San Marina Shoes, Sunspecs, Swatch & Del Sol, Skechers Apparel, Nautica, Royal Jewels & Diamonds, Monarch Jewels, Guess, Guess Kids, Perry Ellis, Addict, Penha Perfumeries, the Shoe Box, Jon Sonen, Shabby Chic, Giordano,



an 8 movie-theater Mega Plex, Aruba's first food court, and a children's entertainment floor operating a Kiddie-Train, a Rock Climbing wall, a Bowling Alley, an electronic game zone and a thrilling Cable Slide, next to an indoor supervised play room. The mall will also feature a branch of Western Union, the Post-Office and a Mini-Market,

in addition to a number of theme restaurants and bars including Casa Tua Mediterranean, Havana Cigar & Spirit Bar, Epoca Nuova, Hoshi Sushi and Mama Mexico, Mimo's Ice Cream and Sir James House of Coffee set amid tropical vegetation, with 354 easily accessible, ground level parking spaces, and nicely lit walking lanes to and from the hotel strip.

American Artist Donates Painting to Save the Donkeys Foundation

ORANJESTAD - American artist William J. De Paula recently donated a painting depicting the Aruban flag and Indian Markings to the Save the Donkeys Foundation. The painting was received by Mrs Desiree Eldering, Vice President of the foundation. De Paula, who was on vacation in Aruba with his Aruban wife Carolyn de Cuba and their two children, came up with the idea of painting a picture to donate to a good cause in Aruba.

After visiting the Donkey Sanctuary in Sta Lucia with his family, he found out that the foundation was running a fundraising campaign to build a fence on a new piece of land to protect the 90 donkeys currently under its care. As part of the fundraising, there was an afternoon bingo at the Marriott Ballroom Sunday July 26. De Paula was pleased to choose to donate his painting, which he painted on the island, to the Foundation as he was very impressed with the great work that's being done to protect these noble animals. He, his wife Carolyn and their children Brandon and Angeline, were quite taken with the tame and friendly donkeys.



Mrs Eldering received the donation, thanking De Paula for this nice gesture. She remarked that this painting will be sold or auctioned off to help raise funds towards the construction of the fence. This will take place at an event on October 4th, world animal day. More similar donations would be greatly appreciated for the foundation to reach its goal. (Another donation is already made by Mrs Nancy Folkeringa-Croes)

It will be a big expense to build the fence to protect the donkeys currently at the Donkey Sanctuary in Sta Lucia, completely managed by volunteers, but Mrs Eldering has faith that the community will contribute to this good cause. In the meantime, De Paula and his family have returned to Key Largo, Florida where they reside. To see more paintings by William De Paula visit: www.artedepaula.com

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Wichita Villacres meets JWU students

Miami, Florida -- Johnson & Wales University students recently met Wichita Villacres as she talked to them about diversity in the workplace. Villacres, the President and CEO of ECO DMS a local destination management company met roundtables of 10 to 12 students at a time, from 9 am until 1 pm, encountering a fresh group every 30 minutes.

The students were amazed to learn about the Dutch Caribbean, the islands of Aruba and Curacao and their cultural diversity with more than 42 nationalities living together. Villacres explained that tourism was the island's main source of income and

that the message of ONE HAPPY ISLAND was directed towards visitors and locals.

While at Johnson & Wales University -- founded in 1914 as a nonprofit, private institution, and recognized as a leader in career education -- Villacres met an Aruban student preparing to become a chef in the culinary school and another studying in the Hospitality and Tourism branch.

Villacres reports that students were mostly interested in learning about new cultures, and they willingly shared how they handled and managed diversity in their hometowns, and how they interacted with people of



different backgrounds and how diversity affected their lives.

Villacres took the opportunity to educate the youngsters about SITE, MPI & ISES widely-recognized international travel organizations and how these organizations bring their large conferences to

the four corners of the universe and how those conferences are received all over the globe with worldwide attendance, promoting the MICE market, the Meetings and



Conventions industry. The roundtable event was open to the entire Johnson & Wales University student body and it was set up by the students of Stacy Sterns, an international Event Planner who teaches special event courses at JWU. Villacres also shared her experiences sitting on the ISES board when she was

president of the International Special Events Society, South Florida/Caribbean Chapter of which Stacy was also a past president. Villacres who shares her time between Aruba, Curacao and Florida is President & CEO, PRA Destination Management Southeast Florida, a proud green company.



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KLM investigating delayed flight details

~Angry passengers join forces on internet~



PHILIPSBURG--KLM is "thoroughly investigating" the details of flight KL 785 on July 4 which had to return to Curaçao while on its way to Amsterdam. The flight finally arrived at its destination 48 hours later.

"The investigation into the events during the flight from Curaçao to Amsterdam is still ongoing. It concerns a thorough investigation which is being carried out very meticulously," according to a written statement of KLM headquarters in Amstelveen, the Netherlands.

Shortly after take-off, passengers detected the smell of burning. At the same time, the cabin crew received a signal that something was wrong with the auxiliary engine. The captain immediately decided to make a landing at the airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

According to the passengers, the cabin crew prepared them for an emergency landing. Some passengers were crying, while others started to pray.

KLM, however, is referring only to a precautionary landing. "During the flight, the captain received a warning in the cockpit that there would be a technical problem.

He put the passengers' and crew's safety first and decided to make a precautionary landing," the airline states.

Much to the relief of the 450 passengers, the landing was impeccable. They were accommodated in the terminal. After hours of waiting, they were informed that they would be flying back to Curaçao with the same aircraft. Seven hours after departure they were back at Hato Airport.

It was well after nightfall, but it took hours before everybody was transported to a hotel. They were informed that the flight would leave towards the end of the afternoon, 24 hours after the original time of departure, to set course for Amsterdam.

That afternoon, the 450 passengers gathered again at Hato, but after some time the signs at the KLM counters suddenly stated that flight KL 785 was cancelled. The reason for this cancellation was the crew's rest regulation, which is something, the passengers say, KLM would already have known the evening before.

Some passengers managed to be transferred to the regular flight, which departed for Amsterdam that same day

with dozens of empty seats.

Those who stayed behind had to wait for another 24 hours before they could travel to the Netherlands with the malfunctioning aircraft, named City of Lima.

Once in the Netherlands, a river of complaints started to flow, mainly about the chaotic assistance at Hato and a lack of communication from KLM.

Those who filed a complaint received a letter with apologies and a voucher for a 250-euro reduction on their next KLM flight within one year. This letter led to another outcry.

Angry passengers gathered on the internet. Many called for help from the "EUclaim" bureau which assists passengers that are victims of delays and cancellations. According to EUclaim these passengers are entitled to 600 euros in compensation, as well as covering the extra cost for meals, a hotel, et cetera.

The central question in this is whether there was a "delay" due to an "Act of God" as KLM is stating, or a cancellation. Passengers are pointing to the fact that the signs at the KLM counter at Hato indicated that the flight had been cancelled.

"We understand very well that for passengers this precautionary landing in Puerto Rico has been a disagreeable experience and that the delay was unpleasant. We regret this, but the safety of passengers and crew is, and remains, our highest priority under any circumstances. Continuously, our aircraft are being checked on every detail and our crew is constantly being trained to adequately respond in emergency situations," KLM says.

According to the passengers involved, it emerges from the statement that KLM still does not

understand why they are so angry. They understand the decision not to continue the flight, but the problem is particularly focused on the way in which they were treated upon their return to Hato.

This week, they sounded the alarm again, this time in a Dutch consumer television show. KLM's response was: "We refrain from comment as long as the investigations are not finished."

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INDOOR & OPEN AIR

American Teens Abroad: Ray Leads in Norway; Ostrovskiy in Curacao

14-year-old IM Ray Robson is one of the leaders at the Arctic Chess Challenge (Tromso, Norway, August 1-9).

Meanwhile at the Curacao Chess Festival another one of our young talents, Aleksandr Ostrovskiy earned clear second place. Normally the annual Curacao tourney attracts many GMs, but this year the highest rated player was a 2261 FM, Alexander Hernandez but the prize-fund was just as large. This made for a big payday for 13-year-old Aleksandr.

His father Anatoly, who also played and scored 4.5/9, told CLO, "This was our first time in the Caribbean and it was Alex's first non-scholastic tournament abroad. He got paid \$1,230 in total (\$1,000 for the second place, \$200 for U2200, and \$30 for 2nd-3rd place in the blitz (7/9). It is interesting to note that unlike in American tournaments it is possible to win more than one prize, as these class prizes are regarded as bonuses."

The 2009 U.S. Women's Chess

Championship will be held from October 2 through 12 at the sparkling, new Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, which opened in July 2008. The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis also is the site of the 2009 U.S. Chess Championship, which will take place from May 7 through 17.

The U.S. Women's Chess Championship dates back to 1937. The tournament is a 9-round event using the Round Robin pairing system, in which every player plays every other player and the highest score wins. Time controls will be the classical 40 moves in two hours, with the remaining moves in one hour. There will also be a 5-second increment per move.

Invitations will be sent to the top nine U.S. women players by ranking based on the August 2009 United States Chess Federation rating list. An invitation will also be sent to the defending champion, Olympic gold medalist Anna Zatonskih. The championship will have a

purse of \$64,000, with \$15,000 awarded to the winner, the highest first prize in its history. In case of even scores, prize funds will be evenly divided between winners.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to host this major event in the world of competitive chess," said Rex Sinquefield, a retired investment fund manager who founded the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. "We are honored and most fortunate to serve as the official site in 2009 of two of the premier chess championships." Steve Goldberg of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) Online calls the new St. Louis club "certainly one of the most impressive chess centers" in the country. While serving as host club for the U.S. Women's Chess Championship and the U.S. Chess Championship, Sinquefield notes that "it is the goal of the Chess Club to encourage all of St. Louis' young people to learn chess. We believe that bringing the best chess players in the country to our city will help achieve that goal."



Aleks and Anatoly Ostrovskiy at the traditional beach party at the Curacao Chess Festival.

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization that opened in July 2008. Founded by retired investment fund manager Rex Sinquefield, it already has more than 500 members, surpassing its original goal of 300 for its first year of operation. The club offers free classes for beginners, discounted tournament entry fees and discounted merchandise for club members. For more information, please visit www.saintlouischessclub.org or call 314-361-CHESS.

The United States Chess Federation is the official, not-

for-profit U.S. membership organization for chess players and chess supporters of all ages and strengths, from beginners to grand masters. Founded in 1939 with the merger of the American Chess Federation and the National Chess Federation, USCF has grown to more than 80,000 members and nearly 1,200 affiliated chess clubs and organizations. USCF sanctions 25 national championship award titles to both amateurs and professionals, ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens. For more information, visit www.uschess.org.

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Crime prevention seminar at the Radisson

PALM BEACH -- Aaron J. M. Antersijn, Safety & Security Consultant, informed and enlightened members of the local business community as he talked about new behaviors, sharing helpful safety tips on how to prepare employees and members of managements and how to prevent businesses from becoming potential crime targets, minimizing the risk of attacks and instituting preventive measures. Experienced security professionals

and former law enforcement experts, joined Antersijn on the occasion.

Forbes Traveler recently released their findings on where you can travel and feel super secure. Aruba and her sister islands of Curacao and Bonaire (the Dutch ABC islands) were included as one of the world's safest places to travel in an article that "analyzed piles of data, from U.S. State Department warnings on crime against U.S. citizens abroad and the

latest United Nations survey on global crime trends to the Mercer rankings of the world's safest cities."

The article stated that, "Crime rates on the three islands are low, political unrest is virtually unknown, they're too far south for hurricanes, and in 2008 the trio ranked lowest in the Caribbean in felonious incidents against visiting yachts. In fact, Aruba was the only place in the region to achieve a perfect score on the yacht crime survey."



Café de Pijp opens its doors at South Beach Center – Palm Beach!

Bring this article for a FREE Heineken draft beer per person



PALM BEACH - Last week, Café de Pijp officially inaugurated its authentic "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" conveniently located at the South Beach Center in Palm Beach opposite Segafredo. Café de Pijp has been operating since June 19th and has now made the opening official with various members of the press and guests. All guests received a warm welcome from the management in a nice and cozy ambiance with entertainment of the band The Equator.

Café de Pijp has been designed and founded by Mr. Alex de Haan. He has a

lot of experience with this kind of specific Oud Hollands Café in the Netherlands. The interior of Café de Pijp, which is almost 60 m2, has been constructed with dark wood materials which give the ambiance a very cozy and warm feeling.

They play all kinds of music, from Dutch, to English to Latin American. Every day you can enjoy the peanut consumption with your favorite drink. This peanut concept "Pelpinda's" is a typical Dutch custom, where the guests of the Dutch bar peel their peanuts and throw the shells on the floor and enjoy doing it! When entering the Dutch bar and encountering all the peanut shells on the floor, don't be surprised, as this is one of the most common custom for a typical Old Dutch Bar in the Netherlands.

Café de Pijp will have several activities programmed for its guests in the near future. These activities include Dart competitions among other cafes and guests, Karaoke nights, Jazz nights and Salsa nights. **Café de Pijp serves delicious snacks for its guests and invites their customers to enjoy these snacks free of charge on Friday afternoons.** Café de Pijp will also have their "Pijpjesavond" where one can buy beer at a very inexpensive price. Café de Pijp will also offer



a special drink of the week for the non beer drinkers. **Heineken draught beer will have a price of only AWG 5,- every day.**

For one month Café de Pijp will have a special Grand Opening offer in newspapers. Bring the newspaper ad and get a FREE Heineken draught beer with this ad per person. Do not miss this special offer, just bring it to Café de Pijp and enjoy your FREE beer in a typical "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" Café

de Pijp offers its customers very attractive consumption prices compared to other bars in the vicinity, a great ambiance and LIVE entertainment by Alex as well!

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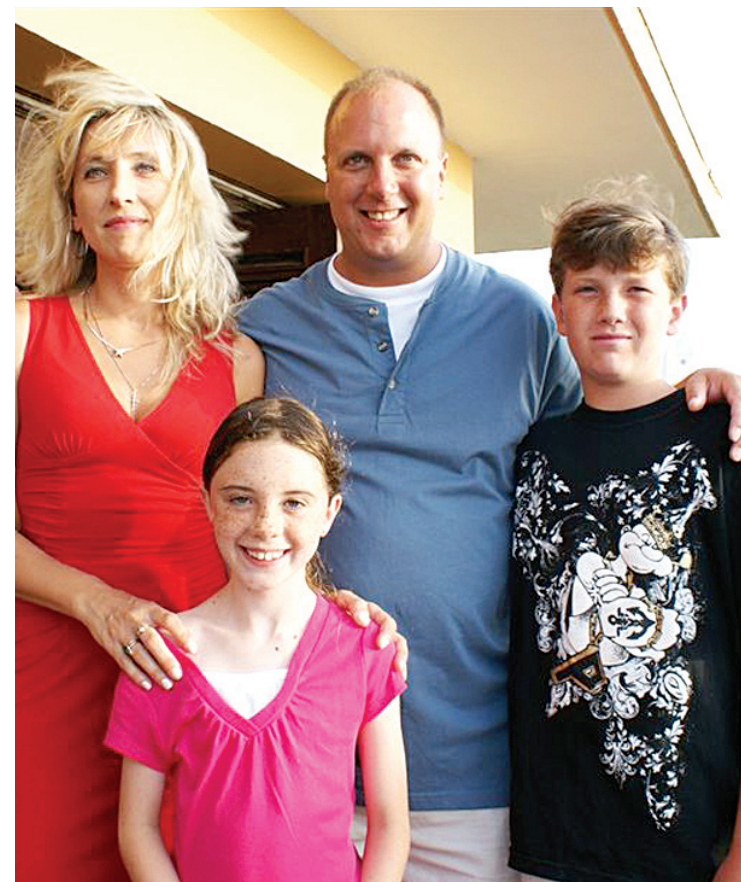
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Continued from front page

Guy, a consummate professional and the perfect host, greeted guests assisted by girlfriend Wendy and mom Sarah, seen here in the pictures with the nicely relaxed crowd of cocktail party invitees, all traveling with Players Choice.

The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa culinary team catered the delicious hors d'oeuvres buffet, loaded with goodies while the banquet team poured bottomless libations.



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
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For more information or to
 make reservations, please
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The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars

Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the stars.

The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited

the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting.

The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd pleasers.



True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining

room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song. Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. www.manchebo.com steakhouse



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price. The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Posing with Angelo the Italian maitre D' at Giorgio's, Mr and Mrs. Klaus, from Pennsylvania, 2nd time repeaters in Aruba at the Manchebo, the trip was a birthday present from him to her and since they are celebrating their 40th anniversary in November, they are already thinking about coming back, they enjoyed Menu Turistico and recommend it wholeheartedly! □

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa deserves recognition as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace,

raising the bar to a must-visit, must-try status.

The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair. From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba's oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □



Economic Experts Across Western Hemisphere To Convene In Miami-Dade County

MIAMI-A delegation of twelve economic advisors and media representatives representing five Latin American and four Caribbean nations will meet in Miami August 11-14, 2009 on a U.S. State Department sponsored project titled, "Economic Recovery and the Evolving Global Financial System." Their South Florida visit will focus on Economic Implications of Natural Disasters and Rebuilding After and Urban Economic Redevelopment and Job Creation.

The visitors are participants of the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program and the Miami Council for International Visitors, the local non-profit organization that manages the South Florida program. Events planned for them include a roundtable discussion on current economic conditions, meetings with Miami Beach officials at the Emergency Operation Center and an architect's tour of South Pointe Park on South Beach.

The participants come from a multitude of nations, including Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Barbados, El Salvador, Guatemala, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, the Netherlands Antilles and Jamaica.

Celebrating 50 years of citizen diplomacy, the Miami Council for International Visitors (MCIV) has been shaping foreign relations and promoting international understanding one handshake at a time. MCIV is the official South Florida host for the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program, and welcomes hundreds of

distinguished international visitors every year. MCIV designs and coordinates professional, educational, and cultural programs that enable the visitors to meet on a one-to-one basis with local leaders across all disciplines. Many of the international participants

go on to become heads of state or cabinet members in their country of origin. Miami Council of International Visitors belongs to an nationwide network of community-based volunteer organizations that is part of the National Council for International

Visitors in Washington, D.C. The International Visitor Leadership Program participants are given the unique opportunity to gain insight and perspective from an American viewpoint on global and domestic issues,

and share with U.S. citizens the challenges and opportunities in their home countries. U.S. Ambassadors have consistently ranked the International Visitor Leadership Program their number one tool for Public Diplomacy.



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Jose Fernando Ramirez	Afl 3000,-
Luis Maduro	Afl 2000,-
Hilaria Vizcaino Chavez	Afl 1000,-
Emiliana Kock	Afl 500,-
Hilaria Vizcaino Chavez	Afl 250,-
Andrea Cuevas	Afl 250,-
Mary Ann Reno	Afl 250,-
Olivia Alenazo	Afl 250,-

congratulations

next raffle will take place August 13, 2009 at Seaport Casino

CRYSTAL & SEAPORT CASINOS

Vast expanses of Arctic ice melt in summer heat



The shore line from Tuktoyaktuk, in the Northwest Territories, Canada, is shown on Saturday Aug. 8, 2009. The Arctic Ocean has given up tens of thousands more square miles of ice in a relentless summer of melt, as scientists watched through satellite eyes for a possible record low polar ice cap. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

By CHARLES J. HANLEY, AP Special Correspondent
TUKTOYAKTUK, Northwest Territories – The Arctic Ocean has given up tens of thousands more square miles (square kilometers) of ice on Sunday in a relentless summer of melt, with scientists watching through satellite eyes for a possible record low polar ice

cap.

From the barren Arctic shore of this village in Canada's far northwest, 1,500 miles (2,414 kilometers) north of Seattle, veteran observer Eddie Gruben has seen the summer ice retreating more each decade as the world has warmed. By this weekend the ice edge lay some 80 miles

(128 kilometers) at sea.

"Forty years ago, it was 40 miles (64 kilometers) out," said Gruben, 89, patriarch of a local contracting business. Global average temperatures rose 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.6 degree Celsius) in the past century, but Arctic temperatures rose twice as much or even faster, almost

certainly in good part because of manmade greenhouse gases, researchers say.

In late July the mercury soared to almost 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius) in this settlement of 900 Inuvialuit, the name for western Arctic Eskimos.

"The water was really warm," Gruben said. "The kids were swimming in the ocean."

As of Thursday, the U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center reported, the polar ice cap extended over 2.61 million square miles (6.75 million square kilometers) after having shrunk an average 41,000 square miles (106,000 square kilometers) a day in July -- equivalent to one Indiana or three Belgiums daily.

The rate of melt was similar to that of July 2007, the year when the ice cap dwindled to a record low minimum extent of 1.7 million square miles (4.3 million square kilometers) in September.

In its latest analysis, the Colorado-based NSIDC said Arctic atmospheric conditions this summer have been similar to those of the summer of 2007, including a high-pressure ridge that produced clear skies and strong melt in the Beaufort Sea, the arm of the Arctic Ocean off northern Alaska and northwestern Canada.

In July, "we saw acceleration in loss of ice," the U.S. center's Walt Meier told The Associated Press. In recent days the pace has slowed, making a record-breaking final minimum "less likely but still possible," he said.

Scientists say the makeup of the frozen polar sea has shifted significantly the past few years, as thick multiyear ice has given way as the Arctic's dominant form to thin ice that comes and goes with each winter and summer.

The past few years have "signaled a fundamental change in the character of the ice and the Arctic climate," Meier said.

Ironically, the summer melts since 2007 appear to have allowed disintegrating but still thick multiyear ice to drift this

year into the relatively narrow channels of the Northwest Passage, the east-west water route through Canada's Arctic islands. Usually impassable channels had been relatively ice-free the past two summers.

"We need some warm temperatures with easterly or southeasterly winds to break up and move this ice to the north," Mark Schrader, skipper of the sailboat "Ocean Watch," e-mailed The Associated Press from the west entrance to the passage.

The steel-hulled sailboat, with scientists joining it at stops along the way, is on a 25,000-mile (40,232-kilometer), foundation-financed circumnavigation of the Americas, to view and demonstrate the impact of climate change on the continents' environments.

Environmentalists worry, for example, that the ice-dependent polar bear will struggle to survive as the Arctic cap melts. Schrader reported seeing only one bear, an animal chased from the Arctic shore of Barrow, Alaska, that "swam close to Ocean Watch on its way out to sea."

Observation satellites' remote sensors will tell researchers in September whether the polar cap diminished this summer to its smallest size on record. Then the sun will begin to slip below the horizon for several months, and temperatures plunging in the polar darkness will freeze the surface of the sea again, leaving this and other Arctic coastlines in the grip of ice. Most of the sea ice will be new, thinner and weaker annual formations, however.

At a global conference last March in Copenhagen, scientists declared that climate change is occurring faster than had been anticipated, citing the fast-dying Arctic cap as one example. A month later, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted Arctic summers could be almost ice-free within 30 years, not at the century's end as earlier predicted.

SD Zoo's online Panda Cam crashes due to overload

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Zoo's pandas have become such cyber-stars that their Panda Cam got caught in a popularity crunch.

The zoo says the online camera feed, which monitors 300-pound mom Bai Yun and her 4-ounce, 1-day-old cub, crashed Thursday morning because of increased Internet traffic. The zoo's blogs went down about the same time. Zoo spokeswoman Jenny Mehlow said the cam was down for about 30 minutes. The blogs were down until Friday evening. Bai Yun gave birth to the cub Wednesday. Video posted on the zoo blog shows the moment of birth with the tiny cub emerging. Seconds later, Bai Yun picks up the squealing cub, hunches over and begins nursing.

It's her fifth cub and only the 14th panda in the United States.



Giant pandas Le Le (top) and Ying Ying chew on shoots and leaves at the Amazing Asian Animals enclosure in Hong Kong Ocean Park August 9, 2009. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu (CHINA ANIMALS SOCIETY)

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Rally's fate up to shoppers, Fed

By Leah Schnurr

NEW YORK (Reuters) – Wall Street's rally could persist this week as investors' conviction grows that the U.S. economy is on track for a recovery. But retailers' results, CPI and other consumer data could cast a pall if shoppers fail to show signs of life.

The focus will also be on the Federal Reserve, which will release a statement on Wednesday afternoon at the end of its two-day interest rate-setting meeting. The U.S. central bank is expected to hold rates near zero, so investors will look for signals

of an exit strategy from its efforts to prop up the financial system.

The government's July retail sales data as well as quarterly scorecards from major retailers, including Wal-Mart Stores Inc (WMT.N), J.C. Penney (JCP.N) and Macy's (M.N), will give a snapshot of the industry and how consumer spending is faring in the recession. So far, consumers have tightened their belts and shopped mostly for just the bare necessities as worries about job security take precedence.

Encouraging
manufacturing

U.S.
and

employment data last week pushed all three major stock indexes to nine- and 10-month highs. And analysts said the enthusiasm from the better-than-expected reports should carry over into this week.

The broad Standard & Poor's 500 is up 49.4 percent from the 12-year closing low of early March after vaulting above the key 1,000 level this week.

Both the Dow and the S&P 500 finished Friday's session at 2009 closing highs. Also last week, the Nasdaq rose back above the 2,000 milestone to end on Tuesday at 2,011.31 --



A man talks on the phone outside the New York Stock Exchange. Even as the US economy seems to be emerging from recession, the Federal Reserve is likely to signal it will maintain extraordinary efforts to spur growth until a recovery takes root, analysts say. (AFP/Getty Images/File/Spencer Platt)

Fed likely to keep key interest rate at record low

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — With the economy strengthening but still fragile, Federal Reserve policymakers are expected to hold a key lending rate at a record low this week and will weigh whether to extend some programs that were created to ease the financial crisis.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues also are likely to signal that while the recession is winding down, the pain isn't over.

Though the unemployment rate dipped to 9.4 percent in July — its first drop in 15 months — economists predict it will start climbing again. Many, including people in the Obama administration and at the Fed, say it could still top 10 percent this year.

For months, consumers have pulled back on spending and borrowing. To try to stimulate economic activity, Fed policymakers are all but certain to keep the target range for its

bank lending rate between zero and 0.25 percent at the end of their two-day meeting Wednesday.

That means commercial banks' prime lending rate, used to peg rates on home equity loans, certain credit cards and other consumer loans, will stay around 3.25 percent, the lowest rate in decades.

Fed policymakers also will probably pledge anew to keep rates there for "an extended period," which economists interpret to mean through the rest of the year and into part of 2010.

"We're doing everything we can to support the economy," Bernanke said recently. "We will try to get through this process. It's going to take some patience."

By holding rates so low, the Fed hopes to induce consumers and businesses to boost spending, even though banks are still being stingy about extending credit.

its highest close for 2009.

At Friday's close, all three major U.S. stock indexes had scored a fourth straight week of gains. For the week, the Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) rose 2.2 percent, while the S&P 500 added 2.3 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index (.IXIC) advanced 1.1 percent.

For the year, the S&P 500 is up 11.9 percent.

The blue-chip Dow average is up 6.8 percent in 2009, while the Nasdaq is up 26.8 percent.

"All the fundamentals for recovery are now aligned," said Steve Hagenbuckle, managing principal of TerraCap Partners, based in New York. He expects stocks to climb next week.

The non-farm payrolls report on Friday, in particular, boosted confidence after it showed the economy shed far fewer jobs than expected

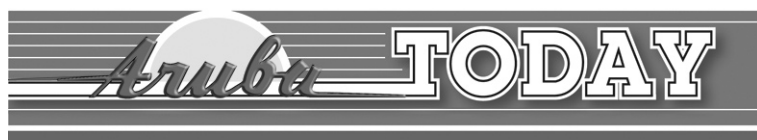
in July. While the job losses were still hefty -- 247,000 jobs disappeared last month -- the data provided the clearest signal yet that the economy was turning around.

Although last week's data offered more evidence that some of the pillars of the economy are stabilizing at a better-than-expected rate, the recovery will still be a long process.

SHOPPERS ON CENTER STAGE

Analysts said the next point of focus for economic stabilization will be the consumer, whose spending accounts for about two-thirds of the U.S. economy.

"We're seeing the turning point right now," said Kurt Karl, head of economic research and consulting for North America at Swiss Re in New York.


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THE (BLUE) DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

By David M. Shribman

The last time we looked -- wasn't it just about five minutes ago? -- the Democrats were in as commanding a position as they have been in a generation. A popular president. Huge majorities in the House and Senate. All the issues going their way. Plus an unusually low barrier for success -- produce an economy that isn't an utter catastrophe and don't look, sound or smell remotely like George W. Bush.

So why are the newspapers, Web sites and airwaves full of talk of Democratic strains, Democratic breakdowns, Democratic fissures, Democratic tensions?

At the heart of all these conversations -- at the center of the party handwringing -- is a species of political animal called the Blue Dog, a beast that does not occur in nature but that, it turns out, occurs naturally in politics. If you understand the Blue Dog phenomenon, you may understand the Democrats' problem -- and you may conclude that the party's difficulties aren't new.

In the old days, when Americans took civics, and took civic life seriously, every schoolboy and schoolgirl knew what a yellow dog was. The phrase, which almost certainly came from Alabama more than three-quarters of a century ago, grew out of the notion that some Southerners would (gladly) vote for a yellow dog if he ran on the Democratic ticket. In short: A yellow dog was a party loyalist.

Today's Blue Dogs don't look quite so loyal. There are, by last count, 52 of them, and they are fiscal conservatives within a party that hasn't always preached, and seldom practiced, fiscal conservatism. They think of themselves as centrists, and given the broad range of ideology in the United States that exists today in comparison to decades past, that's a pretty fair estimation.

But in recent weeks these Blue Dogs have been angry, snarling canines, slowing down the procession of health-care overhaul from a presidential candidate's promise to a president's signature. They have worked to cut the cost of health care and avoid new taxes to pay for expanding coverage to the uninsured. They have been successful, as these elements now are regarded as touchstones of the health plan that is being debated in coast-to-coast town meetings during the August congressional recess.

The concessions House leaders made to the Blue Dogs were not insubstantial. The politics of the House is ultimately the politics of numbers. There are more liberals than Blue Dogs in the Democratic caucus, and many of them worry that the new health-care system is beginning to look a lot like the old health-care system. Thus this August of agony for Democrats.

The Blue Dogs have become the tail that wags the Democratic dog. This is a pretty strong tail, for Democratic leaders have reluctantly come to recognize that the size of this group is what consolidated the Democrats' power in November and is what contributes to the Democratic leadership's influence today.



SHOUTING AND STOMPING WON'T OBSCURE THE NEED FOR REFORM

By Cynthia Tucker

WASHINGTON -- Why are the so-called tea-baggers so angry and frightened by the prospect of health care reform? Why would any ordinary citizen be upset by proposals to modernize and rationalize what we generously call a "health care system"? For most health care consumers, little is more frightening than the "health care system" that currently exists.

Let's leave aside, for a moment, the estimated 47 million or so Americans who have no health insurance. It's easy to understand their predicament. A young, healthy construction worker falls off a ladder and ends up with hundreds of thousands in bills he cannot pay. Or a middle-aged diabetic is laid off and finds herself skimping on doctor's visits because she can no longer afford to go. We hear stories like that often enough to enable us to empathize with the plight of the uninsured.

Yet, it shouldn't take much of an imagination (or much of a memory) to understand the dilemmas faced by many consumers who do have a health insurance policy. While opponents of reform have frightened consumers with warnings of "rationing" if President Obama's proposals are enacted, anyone with health insurance knows that medical care is rationed right now. You only get as much as you -- or your insurance company -- will pay for.

It doesn't matter what you may

need. If your insurer won't cover it and you can't afford to pay out of pocket, you don't get the medical care. (The exception, of course, is emergency room treatment, which hospitals are obligated to provide.)

The for-profit health insurance industry is in the business of maximizing profits for their shareholders, and the only way they can do that is to hold down the payments they make for medical care. That means they spend a lot of their time (and a lot of their money) figuring out ways to deny claims.

That's why so many patients find their claims denied after they have spent years paying premiums. You may have faced this yourself: You're at home recovering from an illness, only to start receiving bills for expenses the insurance company has refused to pay. Sometimes, the reasons for denying coverage are in the very fine print that came with your policy. Sometimes, the insurer is just behaving unfairly, hoping you are too sick to fight back. At recent townhall-style forums held by members of Congress or administration officials, some belligerent tea-baggers have held up signs saying, "What's wrong with profit?" The answer is this: It has no place in the health insurance industry. It distorts and disrupts the provisions of health care, adding costs without adding quality of care.

The health care market doesn't function like the market for

automobiles or artichokes or flat-screen TVs. If you don't like the price, you just don't buy. But you walk away from expensive health insurance at your own risk.

There is no real competition among insurance companies, as recent research has shown. In 94 percent of metropolitan areas across the country, the market is dominated by no more than two insurance companies, according to the American Medical Association. Republicans claim that the answer is to provide more competition, but they had years to accomplish that, and they didn't. The GOP knows perfectly well that health insurers fight real competition tooth and nail -- as they are fighting the proposal for a public insurance option.

Some of the tea-baggers may have little recent experience with private health insurance because, from the looks of them, many are covered by Medicare. Why would they object to allowing government to get more involved in health insurance for the rest of us, since they already enjoy the largess of a government program? (Oddly, after decades of conservative government-bashing, many people simply don't understand that Medicare is a government-run, taxpayer-supported program. Or "socialism," as some would have it.)

The tea-baggers aside, most health care consumers know perfectly well that the system isn't working and needs to be fixed. Bring on reform.



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Jackson show insurance excluded 'illicit' drug use

By RYAN NAKASHIMA,
AP Business Writer
LOS ANGELES — A concert promoter's insurance on Michael Jackson's London shows has provisions that may deny a multimillion dollar payout if the pop star was found to have illegally possessed drugs or was involved in the "illicit taking of drugs."

The policy, a copy of which was provided Friday to The Associated Press, covers cancellations resulting from death, but its provisions will hinge on the results of an autopsy that has been delayed twice.

Jackson's doctor administered multiple sedatives along with the powerful anesthetic propofol, a potentially lethal combination, hours before the singer died June 25, a law enforcement official who requested anonymity because the death investigation is ongoing told the AP.

It was not immediately clear whether any medications Jackson was taking would negate a payout up to \$17.5 million, which would ultimately benefit his estate.

The insurance policy, covering the first 13 shows of the 50-show run, was taken out by Jackson and concert promoter AEG Live in April. Such a policy and its provisions are considered standard for events on the scale of the one for which Jackson was preparing.

A copy of the insurance policy

also showed that it had several clauses that would prevent a payout, including if the singer concealed information or acted carelessly to increase the risk of a no-show.

A claim could take months to resolve through a settlement or in court, and either route could be delayed as police investigate a manslaughter charge.

A New York doctor with no connection to AEG Live conducted a medical exam of Jackson in Los Angeles in February. AEG Live Chief Executive Randy Phillips said he was told by the insurance underwriter that Jackson passed "with flying colors." The exam results were shown to the insurers, but not to AEG Live.

AEG Live and the special administrators of Jackson's estate have been moving quickly to cut business deals that will help the concert promoter recoup the more than \$30 million it is currently owed by his estate. An insurance payout would go a long way to reducing the estate's obligation to AEG Live.

The promoter is also in line to quickly cover its costs if a \$60 million payment from Sony Corp.'s movie division to distribute a film based on rehearsal footage is approved by a court Monday.

Also in the works for court approval is a merchandising deal with Bravado, a unit of Vivendi SA's Universal Music Group,



In this handout photo provided by AEG, pop star Michael Jackson rehearses at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Tuesday, June 23, 2009. The insurance taken out on Jackson for his London concert series does not cover cancellations if the pop star was found to have illegally possessed drugs or was involved in the 'illicit taking of drugs.'

(AP Photo/Kevin Mazur, AEG/Getty Images)

which had signed a deal with AEG Live in July and has been selling Jackson goods online since then.

The estate is in line to receive 90 percent of the proceeds from the business deals after AEG Live's initial costs have been covered, according to documents filed in court this week.

Billy Mays' family: Never saw signs of cocaine use

By MITCH STACY,
Associated Press Writer
TAMPA, Fla. — The family of TV pitchman Billy Mays said they were never aware that he used cocaine or other non-prescription drugs before his death and they were considering whether to have an independent review of an official autopsy.

The Hillsborough County medical examiner's office released the results of its autopsy on Friday, finding that cocaine use had contributed to the heart disease that suddenly killed the 50-year-old in June. He was discovered by his wife in bed at their Tampa



FILE - In this Dec. 6, 2002 file photo, TV pitchman Billy Mays poses with some of his cleaning products at his Palm Harbor, Fla., home. An autopsy shows that cocaine use contributed to the heart disease that suddenly killed Mays in June, officials announced Friday, Aug. 7, 2009.

(AP Photo/Chris O'Meara, File)

condo the morning of June 28.

Mays was a pop-culture fixture with his energetic commercials pitching gadgets and cleaning products like Orange Glo and OxiClean. While heart disease was the primary cause of his death, the medical examiner listed cocaine as a "contributory cause of death."

The medical examiner "concluded that cocaine use caused or contributed to the development of his heart disease, and thereby contributed to his death," the office said in a press release.

The office said Mays last used cocaine in the few days before his death but was not under the influence of the drug when he died. Hillsborough County spokeswoman Lori Hudson said nothing in the toxicology report indicated the frequency of Mays' cocaine use.

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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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PALM BEACH - Fresher than fresh, is the motto of the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at De Palm Pier. Caught in the morning, served at night... That's the Bugaloe way!

Jumbled Chef Marc Hernandez is proudly presenting his rich platter with an 18oz Red Snapper or Grouper, a choice depending on the catch of that day. "Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was just a logical step for me to go crazy with this colorful pallet

of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

And right he is, as the platter has been a hit from the start. Served with a bottle of white wine this fish feast is truly a delight on your Monday night.

**Bugaloe is located at
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Palm Beach between
RIU Palace and
Radisson Resort.**

OPENING HOURS

Bugaloe Beach Bar and Grill is open daily from 8am till midnight. You may go there for a casual lunch or dinner and on Mondays the special is served from 5:30pm till 10:00pm. Reservations are not needed... just follow the good music, the fun and the smiles on the beach and you will know where Bugaloe is.



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Always wanted to learn how to dance Salsa? Well, you will get your chance on Wednesday evening. Reggie and Sabine from ArubaSalsa will show you the moves of Latin

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A collapsed hotel building is seen in heavily flooded river after Typhoon Morakot hit Taitung county, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, in Taitung County, eastern Taiwan. The six-story hotel collapsed and plunged into a river Sunday morning after floodwaters eroded its base, but all 300 people in the hotel were evacuated and uninjured, officials said.

Associated Press

Read more on Page 7

Obama attending first U.S.-Canada-Mexico summit

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House Correspondent

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP) —When President Barack Obama visited Mexico in April, the now-global swine flu epidemic — unbeknownst to the White House — had just begun here and an Obama aide returned home sick.

What could have become a diplomatic downer, however, ultimately turned into a bright spot.

Obama was never in danger, the aide and his family recovered, and the two nations cooperated extensively on the flu outbreak through the spring and beyond. The United States earned huge points with its southern neighbor for not joining the countries banning flights, halting trade and taking other actions that Mexico considered unfairly



punitive.

Now, as Obama returns to Mexico, the swine flu that spread from here across the world is increasingly back in the news — and at the top of the agenda of a lightning-quick, three-way summit Sunday and Monday in Guadalajara.

Obama, Mexican President Felipe Calderon and

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper will try to build on that earlier cooperation to handle an expected new wave of cases during North America's upcoming flu season. Obama and Calderon began meetings late Sunday afternoon with photographs and smiles.

Continued on next page

Seven bodies pulled from Hudson after midair collision



The wreckage of a helicopter is lifted by crane from the Hudson River and placed on a boat as seen from Hoboken, NJ, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009.

Associated Press

HOBOKEN, New Jersey (AP) —Divers pulled a helicopter and four more bodies out of the murky Hudson River on Sunday in their search for victims, wreckage and explanations from a midair collision of a sightseeing helicopter and a small plane that killed nine people.

The dead from Saturday's crash include three fathers and their three teenage sons. The private plane carried a family from Pennsylvania, and the helicopter held five Italian tourists celebrating a couple's 25th wedding anniversary.

Continued on page 5

Iran judiciary looks to calm prison abuse outrage

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) —Police and judiciary officials sought on Sunday to calm public outrage in Iran over the deaths of detained protesters in prison, acknowledging abuses and calling for those responsible to be punished.

A senior commander of the powerful Revolutionary Guard, which led the crackdown against the protesters, meanwhile, said that the three top opposition figures are the ones who should be put on trial, striking a harder line that suggests tensions at the highest levels of Iran's power structure.

Iran's Prosecutor General Ghorban Ali Dorri Najafabadi called for those responsible for mistreating detainees to be punished, saying that the protesters weren't even meant to be taken to Kahrizak prison, which has been at the center of abuse claims. "Unfortunately, negligence and carelessness by some officials caused the Kahrizak incident, which is not defensible," he told the state news agency. "During early days, it is possible there were mistakes and mistreatment due to overcrowding in the prison."

Continued on page 6

Summit

Continued from front page

John Brennan, Obama's chief homeland security aide, said the talks are timely — and crucial, given the long borders the U.S. shares with Mexico and Canada. As important as it is to further link up health officials and ready vaccine and antiviral supplies, the three leaders also must together and publicly reinforce a determination not to panic when cases arise, he said.

"There are people who are going to be getting sick in the fall and die," Brennan said. Keeping the severity and reach of the illnesses to a minimum is a priority, but officials also "want to make sure that we do everything possible to ensure the continuation of commerce, transportation and trade between the three countries."

America's first- and third-largest trade relationships are with Canada and Mexico. All three are partners in the North American Free Trade

Agreement, the largest free-trade zone in the world. Closing borders or restricting travel would be very costly for families and businesses on all sides of the borders, an important consideration given the limping economy and the fact that health experts see such actions as pointless in containing the flu's spread.

President George W. Bush kicked off the trilateral tradition in 2005 with the first summit held near his Texas ranch.

They typically are rather sleepy affairs — no splashy news, little attention. Despite the lofty name of North American Leaders Summit, it lacks a defining cause and is usually more a progress report on commercial and security integration than an action-packed headline-grabber.

Officials say the meetings are vital nonetheless.

Peter DeShazo, a former State Department official for Western Hemisphere affairs, said Canada and Mexico are vital to the U.S. economy and security, making

regular conversations at the highest levels a must. "These relationships are so complex and multifaceted," said DeShazo, who directs the Americas Program for the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Said Obama national security adviser James Jones: "I think you get in trouble when you wait too long before talking to your neighbors."

The fifth North American summit is short — just one evening and barely half the next day, but the list of issues is long. The U.S. neighbors will want Obama to explain where America's economic recovery is going because both countries saw their own fortunes fall as a result of problems in the U.S. Obama will hear complaints from Calderon and Harper about "Buy American" requirements in the \$787 billion economic stimulus package.

Climate change is a priority, too. The three leaders also are expected to take a joint stand on a recent problem in their hemisphere — the June coup in Honduras that saw



Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks with Mexican President Felipe Calderon, right, prior to the start of the North American Leaders Summit Sunday Aug. 9, 2009 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Associated Press

President Manuel Zelaya ousted by the military. Obama started a late Sunday afternoon meeting with Calderon without making a comment. He did not schedule a separate session with Harper while in Mexico; the Canadian leader will see the president on Sept. 16 in Washington.

The three leaders were to have dinner together Sunday night, with the agenda

intentionally open and free-flowing. The next day, they have more formalized meetings. They appear together before reporters ahead of their midday departures.

Obama's meeting with Calderon will continue his drive for a new tone in U.S.-Mexico relations.

They had their ups and downs under Bush, driven by a divide over the Iraq war, the United States' building of a border fence and Bush's failure to produce an immigration overhaul.

Like Bush, Obama has emphasized tighter border security. But he also has pledged to renew immigration overhaul efforts, including a citizenship path for illegal immigrants.

During his April visit, Obama made a welcome acknowledgment to Mexicans that Americans share the blame for violence south of border because of drug consumption and gun trafficking. Since then, the U.S. has made a bigger effort to halt the southward flow of guns and money.

Drug violence has killed more than 11,000 people since Mexico launched a national crackdown in 2006. But a \$100 million installment of U.S. drug-fighting aid to Mexico is being held up over concerns in Congress over abuses by the military.

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Were U.S. terror suspect's stories an exaggeration?

ADAM GOLDMAN

MIKE BAKER

Associated Press Writers
RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) —Daniel Patrick Boyd used tales of fighting the Soviets alongside the mujahedeen to recruit followers into a North Carolina terrorism ring, authorities believe, and U.S. officials who were in Pakistan at the time doubt his stories. The former officials questioned whether Boyd, 39, had any affiliation with the Islamic guerrillas, noting the Soviets had all but left Afghanistan by the time the young, blond Muslim convert arrived from America two decades ago.

Boyd's stories were part of an indictment accusing him and seven followers of planning violent jihad overseas. The indictment claims some of the men were training in military-style tactics and that all were plotting to kill, kidnap and maim as part of holy war. Regardless of whether Boyd was ever actually involved with the mujahedeen, authorities said he was preparing for violent jihad and found more than two dozen weapons, a stockpile of ammunition and gas masks at his house. In 1991, when Boyd was arrested in Pakistan and accused of bank robbery, he claimed he was set up by a bank employee who had made inappropriate advances toward his wife and tried to pilfer money from his family. A Pakistani court sentenced

Boyd and his brother Charles to have a hand and foot lopped off under Islamic law, but those types of punishments are rarely enforced. Boyd deemed it a "court of infidels," and when an appeals court overturned the convictions in October 1991, Boyd said "the truth has finally come out." Yet the truth came into question when prosecutors released an audio tape of Boyd talking in May to a person prosecutors have said is a witness. On it, Boyd vowed that he had changed since his time in jail in Pakistan.

"We were also young and dumb and not thinking straight," Boyd said on the tape, played during a hearing last week. "Here we have lots

of talent, lots of experience, lots of brains."

In the grandiose claim secretly caught on the tape, Boyd then talked of returning to those exploits, discussing the merits of "hitting the Wells Fargo trucks and banks." He said the money was insured, so banks get hurt but people don't. He argued the financial system was the main ammunition of the "Kuffar" — Arabic for nonbelievers.

"We must be ready for the sake of Allah," he said. Elizabeth Jones, who was deputy chief of mission for the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, was involved in trying to free the Boyd brothers in 1991. She said she never received any information that they



Sabrina Boyd, the wife of terror suspect Daniel Boyd is shielded from videographers by members of the Muslim community outside the Terry Sanford Federal Building and Courthouse following a hearing in Raleigh, N.C., Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009. A federal judge has ordered six terrorism suspects detained until trial, saying each is a flight risk and a danger. Boyd's face is covered by a burka. Associated Press

had been involved with any mujahedeen group. "It's fairly unlikely, if you ask me," Jones said. "I would have heard about it at the time. If there was any concern about his associations, we would have known about it."

"I think he has an active imagination," she said. Prosecutors are using the stories to describe Boyd as a veteran of terrorist training camps in Afghanistan who fought against the Soviet Union.

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White House: Afghan war not in crisis

ANNE GEARAN

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON(AP)—President Barack Obama's national security adviser did not rule out adding more U.S. forces in Afghanistan to help turn around a war that he said on Sunday is not now in crisis.

James Jones, a retired Marine general with experience in Afghanistan, said the United States will know "by the end of next year" whether the revamped war plan Obama announced in March is taking hold.

The administration is redefining how it will measure progress, with new benchmarks that reflect a redrawn strategy. An outline is expected next month.

Making the rounds of the Sunday talk shows, Jones did little to dispel the growing expectation that Obama soon will be asked to supplement the 21,000 additional forces he already approved for Afghanistan this year.

"We won't rule anything out," but the new strategy is too fresh for a full evaluation, Jones said.

"If things come up where we need to adjust one way or the other, and it involves troops or it involves more incentives ... for economic development or better assistance to help the Afghan government function, we'll do that."

The Obama plan is supposed to combine a more vigorous military campaign against the Taliban with a commitment to protect Afghan civilians and starve the insurgents of sanctuary and popular support. It envisions a large development

effort led by civilians, which has not fully happened, and a rapid expansion of the Afghan armed forces to eventually take over responsibility for security.

"If we can get that done ... we will know that fairly quickly," Jones said.

The New York Times reported Sunday that the Pentagon has created a target list of Afghan drug traffickers to be captured or killed. Citing interviews with two U.S. generals in a Senate Foreign Relations Committee report to be released this week, the Times said the strategy is aimed at disrupting the flow of drug money used to finance Taliban insurgents.

The system to measure progress in Afghanistan is several weeks from completion. It reflects creeping congressional skepticism about the war and its costs. The United States has spent more than \$220 billion since the U.S.-led invasion of 2001, plus billions for more toward aid and development projects. By the United States' own admission, much of the aid money was wasted.

Members of the House Appropriations Committee wrote recently that they are worried about "the prospects for an open-ended U.S. commitment to bring stability to a country that has a decades-long history of successfully rebuffing foreign military intervention and attempts to influence internal politics."

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said Sunday he does not know how

Congress would react to a new request for additional troops.

"It depends on what the facts and the arguments are," said Sen. Carl Levin. "It depends what our commanders in the field say. It depends also I think in part what our NATO allies are willing to do."

Appearing with him, Sen. Lindsey Graham warned against repeating what he called the mistake of committing too few troops to Iraq at the start of the war.

"My message to my Democratic colleagues is that we made mistakes in Iraq. Let's not 'Rumsfeld' Afghanistan," Graham said, referring to former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. Rumsfeld resisted sending a very large U.S. force at the outset of the Iraq war in 2003.

"Let's don't do this thing on the cheap," Graham said. He said he will "be shocked if more troops are not requested by our commanders."

Violence has spiked this year, with roadside bombs the militants' weapon of choice. There are relatively few direct firefights. There are signs the Taliban is pursuing a classic tactic of a smaller, weaker enemy waiting out a larger, militarily superior one.

Deaths among U.S. and other NATO troops have soared. With 74 foreign troops killed — including 43 Americans — July was the deadliest month for international forces since the start



U.S. National Security Advisor James Jones, speaks during a meeting with Brazil's Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, not pictured, at the Itamaraty Palace, in Brasilia, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009.

Associated Press

of the war in 2001.

There are currently 62,000 U.S. troops and 39,000 allied forces in Afghanistan, on top of about 175,000 Afghan soldiers and police. Some NATO countries plan to withdraw their troops in the next couple of years, even as the U.S. ramps up its presence. The newly installed top U.S. general in Afghanistan is

preparing an interim assessment that is expected to be a sober accounting of the difficulties of fighting an entrenched and technically capable insurgency eight years into the war. Gen. Stanley McChrystal is expected to identify shortfalls that should be filled by more forces — perhaps a mix of Afghan, NATO and U.S.

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Seven bodies

Continued from front page

The plane approached the helicopter, which had just taken off for a 12-minute tour, from behind and clipped it with a wing, witnesses said. Both aircraft split apart and fell into the river.

Searchers fought swift currents, dealt with visibility as low as one foot, and dodged debris dumped along the river bottom as they brought four more bodies on to boats. One was found in the fuselage of the helicopter, New Jersey State Police Sgt. Stephen Jones said. Two bodies remained missing.

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers crane lifted the twisted wreckage of the helicopter from 30 feet of water. Nearby, a sonar scanner found the small plane wreckage, New York City police said. More plane wreckage was found farther out in the river under about 50 feet of water.

The collision happened in the

same stretch of the Hudson where a US Airways jet landed safely seven months ago. It was the worst air disaster in New York City since a commercial jet crash in Queens killed 265 people in November 2001.

The searches went on as a steady stream of tour boats floated down the Hudson. Restrictions put in place after the crash kept sightseeing helicopter tours grounded Sunday.

Divers suspended their search at about 6 p.m. Sunday and it will resume Monday morning, National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Keith Holloway said.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board were reviewing flight data from the Teterboro Airport, where the plane took off a little before noon on Saturday.

The plane was not required to have a flight plan and did not file one, said NTSB Chairman Debbie Hersman.

The plane was flying at about 1,100 feet at the time of the



crash, she said. Below that altitude, planes in that part of the Hudson River corridor are to navigate visually. Above that, they need clearance from air traffic controllers.

The control tower at Teterboro handed off responsibility for the plane to the tower in Newark about a minute before the crash and told the pilot to contact Newark controllers, Hersman said. But the Newark officials never heard from the pilot.

Additionally, investigators were asking witnesses,

thousands of whom were out enjoying a beautiful summer day when the aircraft went down, to provide photos and video capturing the crash and its immediate aftermath.

A pilot on the ground saw the plane approaching and tried to alert the helicopter. He radioed the doomed helicopter and said, "You have a fixed-wing behind you," but there was no response from the pilot, Hersman said.

Hersman said the helicopter was gaining altitude at the time of the crash.

One of the Italian victims was a husband celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary, a family friend said. His wife had stayed behind because she was afraid of flying, but their 16-year-old son was in the helicopter.

The five tourists were from the Bologna, Italy, area: Michele Norelli, 51; his son Filippo Norelli, 16; Fabio Gallazzi, 49; his wife, Tiziana Pedroni, 44; and their son Giacomo Gallazzi, 15.

The trip was a gift from Norelli's sister, family friend Giovanni Leporati said.

Car fleeing Calif. police hits pickup, killing 7

By EVELYN NIEVES

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO – A stolen car fleeing from police ran a stop sign and slammed into a pickup in California's Central Valley, killing four young children in the truck and all three people in the car, police said Sunday.

The Dodge Neon was carjacked either late Friday or early Saturday in Selma, about 10 miles from Dinuba, where Saturday afternoon's crash took place, Dinuba police Sgt. Thaddeus Ashford said. No other details on the carjacking were available, he said.

The four children were thrown from the truck, authorities said. None of the children in the truck were wearing seat belts or any restraints, California Highway Patrol Officer Felipe Martinez said.

A fifth child from the truck, Carlos Eric Salazar, 8, was airlifted to Community Regional Hospital in Fresno with major injuries. Dinuba is about 33 miles southeast of Fresno.

The children's parents, Carlos Salazar, Jr., 29, and Jennifer Salazar, 26, were also injured. One was airlifted to Community Regional with major injuries, the other taken by ambulance to the same hospital with moderate injuries, Martinez said. He wasn't sure which parent suffered the major injuries.

The three men who fled from Dinuba police died at the scene and haven't been identified, Martinez said. None of them were carrying identification, he said.

The four children who died were: Jochelyn Grace Salazar, 7; Monique Janae Salazar, 4; Michael Alexander Salazar, 3; and Sienna Rose Salazar, 1, the patrol said.



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Iran

Continued from front page

His comments were followed up by police chief Gen. Ismail Ahmadi Moghaddam who acknowledged protesters were beaten by their jailers at the same facility and its head has since been arrested along with three guards there and the prison closed down.

However he maintained that the deaths in the prison were not caused by the abuse.

“This detention center was built to house dangerous criminals. Housing people related to recent riots caused an outbreak of disease,” the official news agency quoted Moghaddam as saying. Protesters “died of viral illness and not as a result of beating.”

Anger of the events at Kahrizak has extended far beyond just the reformist camp, with influential

figures in the clerical hierarchy condemning the abuse of detainees and the three deaths known to have taken place there. Conservative lawmaker Hamid Reza Katouzian rejected the police chief’s explanation that illness was to blame for detainee deaths.

“Murders were committed that led to the loss of life of a number of our youth. This has to be probed,” the semiofficial ISNA news agency quoted him as saying in an echo of reformist demands that those involved in the abuse be put on trial.

Mohsen Rezaei, a conservative who ran against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in the elections, has led the demands for high-level probes into abuses.

The son of Rezaei’s top aide, Abdolhossein Rouhahamini, died in detention. He was arrested during a July 9 protest and taken to a hospital two weeks later where he died within hours.

Iran has confirmed at least 30 people have died in the worst internal unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, though human rights groups believe the death toll is probably far higher. Hundreds have been detained.

The criticisms are implicitly aimed at the elite Revolutionary Guard, which operates with some autonomy from the ruling clerics and led the harsh crackdown and detention of protesters in the tense weeks after the election.

A senior guard commander struck back on Sunday and challenged the judiciary for not going after the three top opposition leaders, Mir Hossein Mousavi, Mahdi Karroubi and former president Mohammad Khatami themselves, who initially led the protests over the June 12 elections on the grounds they were rigged.

“If Mousavi, Khatami ... and Karroubi are the main elements of a velvet coup in Iran, which they are, it is expected that judicial bodies and intelligence officials go to them to put out the fire of sedition, arrest, try and punish them,” Yadollah Javani said, according to IRNA.

The Guard was created following the 1979 Islamic revolution as an ideological force to defend Iran’s clerical rule. The 120,000-strong force is believed to be better armed and equipped than the regular military. In recent years, the Guard has also amassed a wide network of economic and political power.

The tensions between the Revolutionary Guard and judicial authorities suggests possible rivalries emerging in the highest levels of Iran’s leadership as it tries to regain balance after the worst internal unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Such internal rifts could pose serious complications for



This photo released by the semi-official Iranian Fars News Agency, shows Judge Abolqasem Salavati listening in a court room where dozens of opposition activists and protesters stood trial, in Tehran, Iran, Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009. Dozens of opposition activists and protesters stood trial in Tehran Saturday on charges of rioting and plotting to topple the ruling Islamic system following the disputed presidential election, Iran’s state media reported.

Associated Press

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has previously relied on near seamless unity at the top to enforce policies and control.

The tensions come as Iran presses forward with a mass trial of more than 100 prominent reformist figures, opposition activists and others accused of offenses ranging from rioting to spying and seeking to topple the country’s Islamic rulers through what they call is a “soft overthrow”.

The trial, which has included televised confessions that rights groups say are likely extracted through pressure, is the government’s latest attempt to crush the opposition.

Iran’s most senior dissident cleric, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, has also compared the mass trial and the public confessions to the tactics of former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, former Iraqi dictator


Saddam Hussein and other authoritarian rulers.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a TV interview broadcast Sunday that the Obama administration continued to back the opposition, as she said it did in the days just after the vote.

“We’re continuing to speak out and support the opposition,” she said on CNN’s “Fareed Zakaria GPS” program.

Clinton said she was appalled at the treatment of detainees brought to trial.


“It is a show trial. There is no doubt about it,” she said. “And it is a sign of weakness. It demonstrates, I think, better than any of us could ever say, that this Iranian leadership is afraid of their own people, and afraid of the truth and the facts coming out.”




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Typhoon pummels China, forcing nearly a 1M to flee

GILLIAN WONG

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING (AP) —A typhoon pummeled China's eastern coast Sunday, toppling houses, flooding villages and forcing nearly a million people to flee to safety. Officials rode bicycles to distribute food to residents trapped by rising waters.

Typhoon Morakot struck after triggering the worst flooding in Taiwan 50 years, leaving dozens missing and feared dead and toppling a six-story hotel. It earlier lashed the Philippines, killing at least 21 people.

Morakot, which means "emerald" in Thai, made landfall in China's eastern Fujian province, carrying heavy rain and winds of 74 miles (119 kilometers) per hour, according to the China Meteorological Administration. At least one child died after a house collapsed on him in Zhejiang province.

People stumbled with flashlights as the storm enveloped the town of Beibi in Fujian in darkness, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Strong winds uprooted trees or snapped them apart, while farmers tried to catch fish swept out of fish farms by high waves. Village officials in Zhejiang rode bicycles to hand out drinking water and instant noodles to residents stranded by deep floods, while rescuers tried to reach eight sailors on a cargo ship blown onto a reef off Fujian, Xinhua reported.

Morakot was expected to weaken as it traveled north at about six miles per hour, but still bring strong winds and heavy rains to



A part of Shuang Yuan Big Bridge between Pintung county and Kaohsiung county is washed away after Typhoon Morakot hit southern Taiwan Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009. The storm dumped more than 80 inches of rain on some southern counties on Friday and Saturday, the worst flooding to hit the area in half a century, the Central Weather Bureau reported.
Associated Press

Shanghai, the meteorological administration said. Flood control officials in Shanghai released water stored in inland rivers to reduce levels in preparation, Xinhua said.

About 1 million people were evacuated from China's eastern coastal provinces — more than 490,000 in Zhejiang and 505,000 in neighboring Fujian. Authorities in Fujian called 48,000 boats back to harbor. Five houses were destroyed by heavy rain ahead of the typhoon's landfall, burying four adults and a 4-year-old boy in debris, Xinhua said. The child died after emergency treatment failed, it said.

Another 300 houses collapsed and thousands of acres (hectares) of farmland were

inundated, Xinhua said. Dozens of domestic flights were canceled and delayed in Fujian and Zhejiang, and bus service in Fujian's capital, Fuzhou, was suspended, it said.

Taiwan, meanwhile, was recovering after the storm dumped more than 80 inches (200 centimeters) of rain on some southern counties Friday and Saturday, the worst flooding to hit the area in half a century, the Central Weather Bureau reported.

Taiwan's Disaster Relief Center said a woman was killed when her vehicle plunged into a ditch in Kaohsiung county in heavy rain Friday, and two men drowned in Pingtung and Tainan. It said 31 were missing and feared dead. Morakot hit Taiwan late

Friday and crossed the island Saturday. The Disaster Relief Center reported Sunday that flash floods washed away a home in southern Kaohsiung, leaving 16 people missing. Three were swept away in southeastern Taitung county, including two policemen helping to evacuate villagers. Twelve others were missing, including three fishermen from a capsized boat and three others whose cars fell into a rain-swollen river, it said.

In southern Pingtung county, 4,000 people were stranded in inundated villages waiting for police boats to rescue them, news media reported. In Taitung county, a six-story hotel collapsed and plunged into a river after floodwaters eroded its base, but all 300 people inside were evacuated

and uninjured, officials said. In the northern Philippines, the typhoon and lingering monsoon rains left 21 people dead and seven others missing in landslides and floodwaters, including three European tourists who were swept away Thursday, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said Sunday.

The bodies of the Belgian and two French citizens were found Friday, the council said.

Meanwhile, Xinhua said three fishermen died and 26 others were missing from Tropical Storm Goni, which hit Guangdong on Wednesday but weakened into a tropical depression by Sunday. Helicopters and ships were searching for the missing crew.

China says plane diverted to Afghanistan by threat

GILLIAN WONG

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING (AP) — A plane scheduled to land in China's western region of Xinjiang that was rocked by ethnic riots last month was diverted to southern Afghanistan by a bomb threat, state media said Sunday.

Xinhua News Agency did not identify the airline or the type of plane, but said the airport in the Xinjiang capital of Urumqi had been told to not to allow the plane to land.

Urumqi was the scene of the worst ethnic violence in China in decades when rioting killed 197 people and injured more than 1,700, according to official count.

Xinhua had earlier reported that the plane had been hijacked, but then said it had landed in Kandahar, Afghanistan, after a bomb threat.

However, a press officer for NATO forces in Afghanistan, which control the Kandahar airport, said the alliance had received no report of a plane forced to land there.

"I doubt that anything like that has taken place based on the information we have right now," U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Brian Naranjo said. "That's a significant activity. If something that significant happens we would know about it."

A Xinjiang regional government duty officer, who refused to give his name, said he had not received any information about the incident, while calls to the region's public security bureau rang unanswered.

Calls to the Urumqi airport's information counter also rang unanswered.

The government has said that Urumqi has slowly been returning to normal since the rioting erupted on July 5 after police stopped a protest by ethnic Uighur residents. The Uighurs went on a rampage, smashing windows, burning cars and beating Han Chinese — the nation's dominant ethnic group. Two days later, the Han took to the streets and attacked Uighurs.



In this photo released by China's official Xinhua news agency, armored vehicles withdraw from Urumqi airport, northwest China's Xinjiang autonomous region, early Monday August 10, 2009, after the airport was restored to order. An Afghan plane bound for the restive western Chinese region of Xinjiang was sent back to Afghanistan after a bomb threat, Chinese media said Sunday.

Associated Press

The government said the violence was the work of terrorists, separatists and foreign forces as part of a plot to carve up China.

In early August, an Internet message purportedly from the leader of an Islamic group fighting Chinese rule in a western province urged Muslims worldwide to attack Chinese interests in retaliation for what it called the oppression of minority Uighurs.



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Chavez urges military to be prepared for conflict

CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER

Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez told his military on Sunday to be prepared for a possible confrontation with Colombia, warning that Bogota's plans to increase the U.S. military presence at its bases poses a threat to Venezuela.

Chavez has issued near daily warnings that Washington could use bases in Colombia to destabilize the region since learning of negotiations to lease seven Colombian military bases to the United States.

"The threat against us is growing," Chavez said. "I call on the people and the armed forces, let's go, ready for combat!"

The former paratroop commander said Colombian soldiers were recently spotted crossing the porous 1,400-mile border that separates the two countries and suggested that Colombia may have been trying to provoke

Venezuela's military.

"They crossed the Orinoco River in a boat and entered Venezuelan territory," Chavez said. "When our troops arrived, they'd already left."

Chavez said Venezuela's foreign ministry would file a formal complaint and warned Colombia that "Venezuela's military will respond if there's an attack against Venezuela."

Chavez said he would attend this week's summit of the Union of South American Nations in Quito, Ecuador, to urge his Latin American allies to pressure Colombian President Alvaro Uribe to reconsider plans to increase the U.S. military presence. "We cannot ignore this threat," Chavez said during his weekly radio and television program, "Hello President."

Chavez also halted shipments of subsidized fuel to Colombia, saying Venezuela should not be sending cheap gasoline to an

antagonistic neighbor.

"Let them buy it at the real price. How are we going to favor Uribe's government in this manner?" he said. Colombian officials say Venezuela has no reason to be concerned, and that the U.S. forces would help fight drug trafficking. The proposed 10-year agreement, they claim, would not push the number of American troops and civilian military contractors beyond 1,400 — the maximum currently permitted by U.S. law.

Tensions between the neighboring South American nations also have been heightened over Colombia's disclosure that three Swedish-made anti-tank weapons found at a rebel camp last year had been purchased by Venezuela's military.

Chavez has accused Colombia of acting irresponsibly in its accusation that the anti-tank rocket launchers sold to Venezuela in 1988 were obtained by the



In this image released by Miraflores Press office, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez greets children during his television show "Hello, President" in Caracas, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009. President Hugo Chavez ordered his military on Sunday to prepare for a possible confrontation with Colombia, warning that Bogota's plans to open the neighboring country's bases to U.S. soldiers poses a threat to Venezuela.

Associated Press

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. Sweden confirmed the weapons were originally sold to Venezuela's military.

Chavez denies aiding the FARC. He claims the United States is using Colombia as part of a broader plan to portray him as a supporter of terrorist groups

to provide justification for U.S. military intervention in Venezuela.

Chavez said Sunday that diplomatic relations with Uribe's government "remain frozen" even though he ordered Venezuela's ambassador to return to Colombia more than a week after he was recalled.

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Tiger rallies to win at Firestone

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AKRON, Ohio (AP) —First came another signature moment from Tiger Woods, an 8-iron over the water that stopped a foot from the hole. Even more stunning was the meltdown that followed by Padraig Harrington.

A swift and shocking turn of events on Firestone's famous 16th hole took Woods from one shot behind to a four-shot victory Sunday as he closed with a 5-under 65 to win the Bridgestone Invitational.

Woods became the first player in PGA Tour history to win seven times on the same golf course.

It was his 16th victory in the World Golf Championship series, and the world's No. 1 player now goes to the PGA Championship next week at



Tiger Woods poses with the trophy after winning the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.
Associated Press

Hazeltine with two straight victories after missing the cut last month in the British Open.

After nearly four hours in the tough battle that Harrington expected, the Irishman let it slip away.

Woods left himself some 170 yards over the water, and his 8-iron landed near the pin and rolled back a foot away. Harrington hit from the collar of a bunker over the 16th green, but his delicate flop shot from behind the green came out hot and went into the water.

He wound up with a triple bogey and closed with a 3-over 73 to share second place with Robert Allenby, who had a 66.

Continued on page 12

Del Potro beats Roddick in Legg Mason final

WASHINGTON (AP) —Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro won back-to-back Legg Mason Tennis Classic titles with a 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (6) win over top-seeded Andy Roddick in Sunday's final.

After fourteen points in the third-set tiebreaker and 2½ hours of tennis, Roddick and del Potro stood at the net, waiting for the scoreboard to tell them if they would continue to play.

Del Potro had apparently won the match with a crosscourt forehand winner, but after Roddick challenged the call, both players expected play to continue.

"I actually thought it might have been out, and I asked him and he said it might have been out," Roddick said. "So imagine the disappointment when it wasn't."

The replay system confirmed the ball hit the outer portion of the sideline, giving defending champion del Potro the title. Del Potro raised both arms above his head in celebration before embracing Roddick across the net.

It was the first loss for the top-seeded Roddick in four Washington finals. Roddick won the tournament in 2001, 2005 and 2007.

Roddick began this tournament with some uncertainty about his game. He hadn't played in a match since losing an epic Wimbledon final to Roger Federer on July 5 and taking a monthlong break to recover from a right hip flexor he injured in that match.



Juan Martin del Potro, of Argentina, left, lifts his arms in victory, as Andy Roddick, of the United States, reacts to the news that he lost his challenge of the match point, in the final of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, in Washington, on Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009. Del Portro won the match 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (6), to become the tournament champion for the second year in a row.

Associated Press

Roddick said he feels good about how he played in Washington, a hard-court tournament that is a warmup for the U.S. Open, which begins Aug. 31.

"Coming in here after being off for a month, you want to find out where your form's at, you want to get a bunch of matches in," Roddick said. "I feel I'm on the right path toward the Open."

WNBA Roundup Wauters helps Silver Stars win on the buzzer

The Associated Press
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Ann Wauters hit a jumper from the free-throw line at the buzzer to give the San Antonio Silver Stars a 89-87 victory over the Minnesota Lynx on Sunday.

Becky Hammon scored 22 points to help the Silver Stars move within a half-game of the Lynx for third place in the Western Conference.

Nicky Anosike led Minnesota with 24 points.

Sun 96, Mystics 67

At Uncasville, Connecticut, Lindsay Whalen had 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists as Connecticut tied Washington for second place in the Eastern Conference.

Anete Jekabsone-Zogota added 15 points for Connecticut. Alana Beard had 18 points, seven rebounds and five assists for the Mystics.

Shock 64, Sky 58

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Shavonte Zellous scored 19 points and Katie Smith added 14 for Detroit. Candice Dupree led the Sky with 16 points.

NL Roundup

Dukes leads Nationals to 8th straight win

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elijah Dukes drove in three runs and Ryan Zimmerman had three hits as the Washington Nationals won their eighth straight game with a 9-2 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday.

The Nationals' eight-game run is the second longest in their five seasons in the nation's capital. They won 10 straight from June 2-12, 2005.

J.D. Martin (1-2) became the fifth Nationals pitcher to record their first win as a starter — and the second in two games. On a sultry afternoon, Martin allowed one run and five hits in five innings. He walked one and struck out one.

Marlins 12, Phillies 3

At Philadelphia, Josh Johnson pitched six impressive innings, helping the Marlins complete a three-game sweep over the Phillies.

The Marlins moved within four games of the NL East-leading Phillies with their first sweep in Philadelphia since April 2004. The Phillies fell to 3-8 since acquiring reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Cliff Lee in a blockbuster deal with Cleveland on July 29.

Johnson (11-2) allowed one run and four hits, striking out six.

Jamie Moyer (10-9) gave up three runs and 11 hits in five-plus innings, failing to strengthen his case to stay in Philadelphia's crowded rotation.

Astros 2, Brewers 0

At Houston, Wandy Rodriguez pitched seven shutout innings and Geoff Blum hit a two-run homer in the Astros' win over the Brewers.

Rodriguez (11-6) allowed five hits and struck out three in his first start since leaving

his outing eight days ago with a strained right hamstring. He won his sixth straight decision and gave up one earned run or fewer for the seventh consecutive appearance.

Jose Valverde got the final four outs for Houston to earn his 15th save of the season and second of the series.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, Skip Schumaker's first career pinch-hit home run started a five-run eighth-inning rally for St. Louis that included Pirates pitcher Matt Capps' ejection for hitting Albert Pujols, as the Cardinals finished off a three-game sweep.

The Pirates lost a 3-2 lead in the eighth while dropping their eighth in a row, all at home. They are two losses away from their longest home losing streak since PNC Park opened in 2001, a 10-game run in 2005.

Joel Pineiro (10-9) fell behind 3-0 as Steve Pearce hit a two-run homer, but stayed in to pitch seven innings and improve to 4-0 in his last seven starts.

Reds 5, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Aaron Harang ended the worst winless stretch of his career with his first victory since late May, Brandon Phillips and Adam Rosales each homered and the Reds beat the Giants.

The Giants, who had won six straight home series, fell into a tie with Colorado for the NL wild card lead after the Rockies beat the Chicago Cubs 11-5 at Coors Field.

Rockies 11, Cubs 5


At Denver, Todd Helton had three hits to extended his hitting streak to 14 games and Dexter Fowler scored three times.




Washington Nationals' Ryan Zimmerman, center, and Cristian Guzman, right, celebrate with teammates Josh Bard (7) after scoring on a two-run RBI-single hit by Elijah Dukes, (not shown) during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, in Washington. The Nationals won 9-2.

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Scott Dixon rolls to record-

breaking 20th IndyCar win

WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer
LEXINGTON, Ohio
(AP) —Scott Dixon became IndyCar's career leader in victories with a commanding performance in the Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio on Sunday. The win was the 20th of Dixon's career, breaking a tie with former series star Sam Hornish Jr. Not that Dixon was ready to celebrate. He knows

his record might not stand for long considering the company he keeps. "To keep that going I'm definitely going to have to keep racing for a lot more years," Dixon said. "But if I can get it to 25, 30, 35 that would be pretty cool." The affable New Zealander appears to be well on his way. Dixon won so easily at Mid-Ohio, he was practically

posing for pictures in Victory Lane by the time the rest of the field hit the finish line at the sprawling 2.258-mile course. He took the checkered flag nearly 30 seconds ahead of pole-sitter Ryan Briscoe, the largest margin of victory in the series in a decade. "When you get to this place and you get in a rhythm with that car, you can do exactly what you want with it, you



do a performance like Scott gave today," said Dario Franchitti, who finished third. "It was dominant and very impressive. He's tough to beat."

The win vaulted the defending points champion back atop the standings, the 12th time in 13 events this season that the points lead has changed hands.

Continued from page 10

The par-5 16th is the most famous hole at Firestone, given the nickname "The Monster" years ago by Arnold Palmer. "I took 6 and 8 the last two days, so I certainly think it was a monster," Harrington said. Woods, who has won the Bridgestone Invitational seven times in 10 starts and has never finished out of

the top five, closed out his remarkable afternoon in style with a 6-foot birdie putt. It was the 70th victory of his PGA Tour career, three behind Jack Nicklaus in second place. Sam Snead (82) holds the record. "We locked horns pretty good," Woods said. "I made a couple of mistakes. Paddy was being consistent, grinding it out, doing all the right things. Unfortunately, 16 happened. But it was a great battle all



day." It was every bit of that. Woods won for only the sixth time in his career when trailing by three shots or more, a deficit that didn't last long. He hit his approach into the par-5 second hole just over the bunkers to 25 feet to make eagle, and two more birdies was enough for him to take the lead after only five holes. From the right rough on the ninth fairway — a rare miss on the front nine — Woods hit to 7 feet for a birdie that gave him a 30 and a two-shot lead. Harrington, a three-time major champion with a tough mind, kept grinding away with pars and regained a share of the lead with his first birdie of the day on the 11th. And when Woods

made consecutive bogeys, Harrington found himself with a one-shot lead heading for the homestretch. They took 30 minutes to play the first two holes, were timed throughout the round and put on the clock at the 16th. It didn't help when both of them found trouble off the tee — Woods hooked his tee shot into the left rough and had to lay up well short of the pond; Harrington pushed his tee shot into the trees. Harrington tried to punch a 5-iron around a fairway bunker, but wound up in the collar on the back slope of the bunker. From there, his third shot sailed over the green. "I rushed my second shot chipping it out and didn't hit a

good shot, and obviously left myself in trouble," Harrington said. "I had an awkward fourth shot. I had to go after it, and probably rushed that a bit, as well. That was the end of that." Woods could not have imagined while standing in the left rough that he would be three shots ahead on the 17th tee. Harrington made such a mess of the hole that he hit five straight shots without losing his turn. "Tiger did play particularly well," Harrington said. "I said to him afterward, 'We'll do battle many more times again.'" Woods won this one, as he often does at Firestone.



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Misión OEA aplazaría visita Honduras por rechazo Insulza



El secretario general de la OEA, José Miguel Insulza, gesticula mientras da un discurso en Montevideo en esta foto de archivo del 4 de agosto de 2009. Una misión de cancilleres de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) que intentará buscar una salida a la crisis política de Honduras pospondría su visita al país por desacuerdos en su conformación con el Gobierno de facto, dijo el domingo la cancillería interina. REUTERS/Andres Stapff (HONDURAS)

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - Una misión de cancilleres de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) que intentará buscar una salida a la crisis política de Honduras pospondría su visita al país por desacuerdos en su conformación con el Gobierno de facto, dijo el domingo la cancillería interina.

El grupo, conformado por cancilleres de seis países acompañados por el secretario general, José Miguel Insulza, tenía previsto llegar a Tegucigalpa el martes a mediodía.

Sin embargo, el Gobierno de Roberto Micheletti rechazó la participación de Insulza alegando su falta de objetividad, imparcialidad y profesionalismo al condenar el derrocamiento del presidente Manuel Zelaya, sacado por la fuerza del país el 28 de junio.

“La intransigencia del secretario general de insistir en integrar él mismo la misión (...), ha hecho imposible que se convenga la visita en la fecha prevista”, dijo la cancillería en un comunicado.

Además, criticó que se excluyera a cancilleres de países miembros de la OEA que votaron por la suspensión de la nación centroamericana a inicios de julio, pero que “tienen una actitud de apertura a reconsiderar el caso de Honduras”.

En el documento, el Gobierno se mostró dispuesto a convenir una nueva fecha, mientras se excluya a Insulza.

La misión está integrada por los cancilleres de Argentina, Jorge Taiana; de México, Patricia Espinosa; de Canadá, Peter Kent; de Costa Rica, Bruno Stagno; de Jamaica, Kenneth Baugh y de República Dominicana, Carlos Morales.

El Gobierno interino había pedido una nueva visita de alto nivel que pudiera comprobar la situación real del país al acusar que medios de comunicación la habían distorsionado con ánimos de desacreditarlo.

La OEA -que suspendió a Honduras de la organización por quebrantar el orden democrático- quiere reflotar el acuerdo de San José, una propuesta del presidente costarricense, Oscar Arias, que incluye la restitución de Zelaya al frente de un gobierno de unidad.

El Gobierno de facto no ha rechazado totalmente la última versión del plan de Arias, pero se niega siquiera a considerar el regreso de Zelaya, a quien acusa de violaciones a la Constitución y otros cargos.

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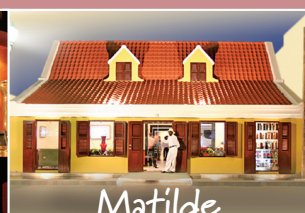
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